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# 4-H is... Education with Youth and Adults... Working Together



4-H involves youth and adults . . . working together . . . in practical learn-by-doing educational activities and real life experiences.

4-H is also the fun of action-oriented education through camping, contests, and trips to meetings.

4-H is open to all interested young people regardless of their race, color, sex, creed, national origin, or handicap.

### **4-H Is Part of USDA**

The nationwide 4-H program is a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Services of the total land grant university system . . . working together with county governments in a jointly funded informal educational program.

### **4-H Program Leaders**

Program leadership comes from the combined efforts of federal, state and county Extension staff, nearly 600,000 volunteer leaders, with support from the National 4-H Council and other private support donors.

The nearly 5 million members of today's 4-H, primarily between the ages of 9 and 19, live everywhere—on the farm, in big cities, in the suburbs, in small towns and communities—as 4-H is found wherever volunteer leaders and professional Extension people are available to work together with young people.





4-H work is conducted in counties, towns, and cities by Cooperative Extension Service agents who guide and supervise local volunteers. Activities for young people are planned with advisory committees of local community leaders to fit specific local needs.

Since local needs vary widely nationwide, flexibility is a key in planning the kinds of educational programs offered and the variety and size of projects in today's 4-H. Local 4-H organizations are also flexible with youth taking part in any or all of the following: organized community or neighborhood 4-H clubs; special interest or short-term groups; school enrichment programs; 4-H instructional television; camping; or as individual 4-H members.

### **The 4-H Mission**

The mission of 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes which will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society. This mission is carried out through the involvement of parents, volunteer leaders, and other adults who organize and conduct educational subject-project experiences in community and family settings.

## National 4-H Goals

There are ten national 4-H goals to guide all who work together in 4-H. The goals urge 4-H'ers to strive to . . .

- Acquire subject-matter skills and knowledge in certain areas of agriculture, home economics, science and technology.
- Acquire a positive self-concept.
- Learn to respect and get along with people.
- Learn to practice leadership skills and fulfill leadership roles.
- Participate in community affairs.
- Develop and practice responsible skills related to the environment.
- Learn and use accepted practices for mental, physical, emotional and social health.
- Explore and evaluate career and job opportunities.
- Establish positive attitudes toward productive use of leisure.
- Develop volunteers as individuals and leaders in the 4-H program.





## The 4-H Concepts

The following ten concepts help express the central philosophy that undergirds the nationwide 4-H program . . . and explain why so many people, both youth and adults, are working together "to make the best better."

4-H is . . . a voluntary informal educational program in subject matter skills and human resource development.

4-H is . . . a vehicle for youth and adults, based on their interests and needs, to help them identify and achieve personal goals, cope with, contribute to, and assume leadership in their society and environment.

4-H is . . . an integral part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the land grant university off-campus educational program administered through the Cooperative Extension Service that provides a cadre of locally-based trained staff consisting of professionals, paraprofessionals, adult and teen volunteers.

4-H is . . . an educational experience for youth without regard to race, creed, sex, handicap, ethnic and occupational background, or geographic place of residence.

4-H is . . . a socialization process involving family, peer groups, and community—living and working cooperatively.

4-H is . . . a program directed toward the development of life skills (thinking, feeling, and doing) in areas such as: initiating inquiry; relating to others; relating to change; using science and technology;

enhancing mental and physical health; developing communication abilities; making vocational choices; and using time, talents and money.

4-H is . . . a fun, action-oriented, and practical program providing real life experiences for youth.

4-H is . . . a family-community effort supplementing and complementing the mission of the home, church and school for the development of youth.

4-H is . . . a cooperative effort of national, state, and local interests, public and private, working with people.

4-H is . . . an effective innovative educational program with a broad based curriculum supported by and utilizing the expertise of the total nationwide land-grant university system and other prominent resources.

### **International 4-H**

The international success and acceptance of these 4-H educational concepts are reflected by an enrollment of another 5 million young people in 82 countries around the globe that have adapted youth programs similar to 4-H. An international youth exchange program provides opportunities for U.S.



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4-H members to visit families and see programs in a growing number of foreign nations, while local clubs in our country are enriched by visits from 4-H'ers from other parts of the world and other types of societies.

#### For More Information

##### 4-H and Community Education

4-H and the Community Education concept are

described in the pamphlet "4-H and the Coop-

erative Extension Program," available from

4-H Headquarters, 1401 D. Street, N.W.,

Washington, D.C. 20004.

Agriculture, Washington, DC 20490.

Facilities and activities for an international exchange program, established by law in 1962, are available to young people through the State and USDA programs. Write the Director, directly to the State Office, Agriculture, Washington, DC 20490.

#### 4-H IS WORKING TOGETHER



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